

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

D. Remarks

Rejection of Claims 1-3 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on *Kikushima et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,798,551).

5 Claim 1 has been amended to address this ground for rejection, and is now believed to include allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 5-6 and 9-10 have been amended. Claim 4 has been cancelled.

The present claims 1-3 and 5-7 are believed to be in allowable form. It is respectfully
10 requested that the application be forwarded for allowance and issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

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